

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: IMAGE FORMATION APPARATUS
HAVING INTERMEDIATE TRANSFER
MEMBER AND ELECTRICALLY
GROUNDED CONTACT MEMBER
DISPOSED IN CONTACT WITH
INTERMEDIATE TRANSFER MEMBER
BETWEEN PRIMARY TRANSFER
PORTION AND SECONDARY
TRANSFER PORTION

$$\begin{array}{c}) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \end{array}$$

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

JP 2000-298408 is mentioned in the specification (for example, at page 5 thereof) and may be relevant for the reasons discussed therein. U.S. Patent No. 6,298,212 B1 is a corresponding English-language document. In addition, enclosed is an English-language abstract, obtained from a commercial database, for the JP document.

FORMAL MATTERS


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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